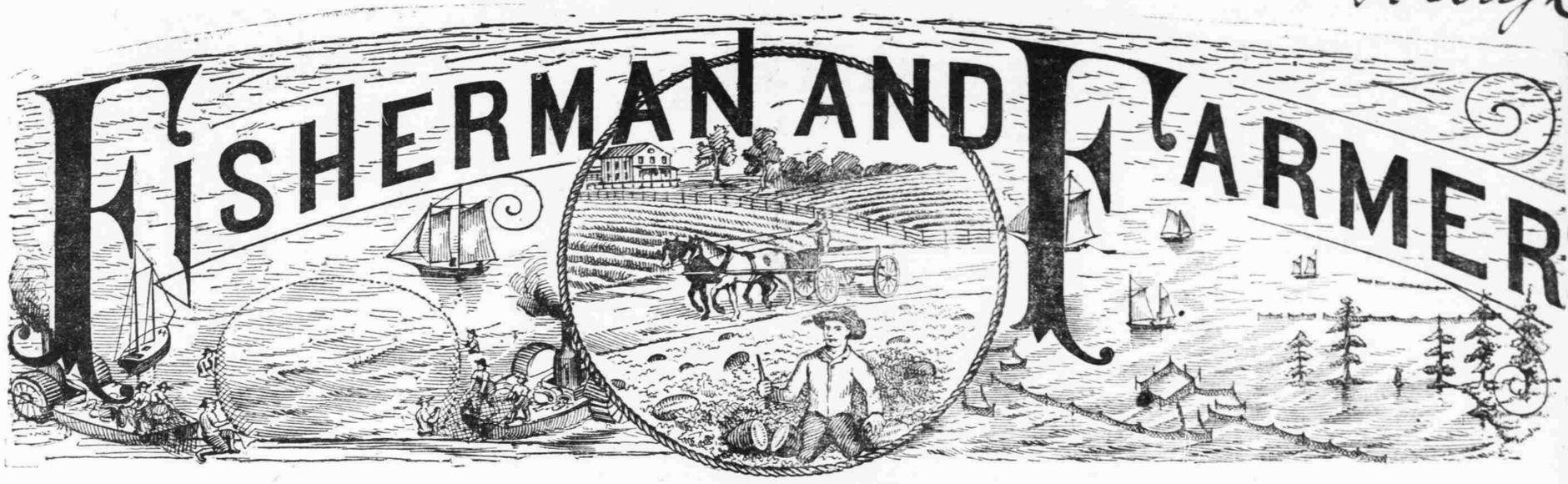


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A. H. MITCHELL, Editor and Business Manager. "The Smallest Hair Throws a Shadow." Price Per Year \$1.50 Single Copy Five Cents. Established 1886. EDENTON, N. C., FRIDAY, April 26, 1889. No. 202

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Please Mention This Paper.

**POTOMAC SHAD HATCHERY.**

WORK OF THE FISH COMMISSION AT  
FORT WASHINGTON.  
An Increased Supply the Result—Shad  
Plentiful Where None Were Ever Caught  
Before—Millions of Fry Placed in the  
Streams of the Country.  
Washington Press.

The importance of the work done by  
the national fish commission inaugurated  
by Prof. Baird, of the Smithsonian  
Institution, in increasing the food prod-  
uct of the country can hardly be over-  
estimated. Rivers and lakes which had  
been almost barren of the better vari-  
eties of edible fishes have been filled  
with the finny tribes, and fishes which  
were found only in certain sections of  
the country have been acclimated and  
domesticated in the waters of the other  
sections. It would require too much  
space for the purpose of this article to  
give even a general view of the work  
done by the commission, but it will be  
of local interest to give a brief account  
of the result of the shad hatchery at  
Fort Washington. A reporter of the  
Press called on Superintendent Worth,  
who has charge of the Potomac hatchery,  
and requested him to give information  
in regard to the work done there.

"This station," replied Mr. Worth,  
"was established in 1882. Without  
going into a detailed method of the  
taking of spawn, I will say that in 1885  
we hatched 30,000,000 of fry; 1887,  
60,000,000; in 1888, 80,000,000, and  
this year we hope to hatch 100,000,000.  
All this is without increase of force,  
and is the result of experience and bet-  
ter organization. Our collecting berth  
extends from Fort Foote to Indian  
Head, a distance of about sixteen miles.  
We get eggs from six fishing shores  
and from forty or fifty gill net fisher-  
men."

"When does the date of taking eggs  
begin?"  
"The average date for collecting the  
first spawn is about the 15th of April;  
the largest production is about May 1st,  
and from that date up to May 25th we  
receive from two to five million eggs  
per diem. We send our spawn-takers  
to the several fishing landings to col-  
lect eggs, but the gill fishermen soon  
learn how to do the work, and they  
bring into the station a large amount  
of nice eggs daily. We pay \$20 a  
million for the eggs, and the expenses  
of the station is about \$4,000 per  
annum."

"Where are the eggs hatched?"  
"Here, in this building (Armory  
building) The eggs are collected  
from the fishermen and kept at the  
station in agitated water, after being  
impregnated with the milt of the male,  
until the line or formation of the fish  
can be seen with the naked eye. The  
impregnated eggs are brought up here  
daily by the Str. Corcoran, and the  
hatching process is completed in those  
glass-lined tanks you will see in the  
other room. When the fry are large  
enough they are placed in the shipping  
cans and are ready for distribution."  
"What is the percentage of loss in  
hatching the eggs?"  
"Oh, there is an immense gain over  
the natural process of hatching when it  
is considered to what dangers from  
predatory fishes, and so on, the spawn  
is subjected when deposited in a natural  
method. We estimate that of the eggs  
we receive the percentage of loss is at  
the lowest 25 per cent.; that is to say,  
for every 100 eggs we receive we deposit

75 shad fry. If the eggs deposited by  
the female shad in a natural way were  
to hatch out a similar percentage the  
streams would soon be blocked up with  
the masses of the fish. Now you can  
see what we have done and what we  
may expect in the future. Six or eight  
years ago, at the Fort Washington  
station, there were collected only  
5,000,000 or 10,000,000 eggs annually.  
We collected 80,000,000 last year,  
and we expect to collect in a year or  
two from 100,000,000 to 125,000,000  
per annum. Recollect, too, that this  
increase has been accomplished with no  
increase of the working force."

"Where are most of the fry depos-  
ited?"  
"Well, we send some away, but the  
great majority of the fry from this  
hatchery are deposited annually in the  
tributaries of Chesapeake bay, and the  
result has been seen in the gradual  
and steady increase of the run of shad  
for the past ten years."

"An old river fisherman the other  
day told me that while the increased  
run of shad had in recent years might,  
in some degree, be due to the efforts of  
the fish commission, yet he thought the  
run of fish was in cycles. The shad  
run had increased, it was true, but so  
did the herring run, and the commis-  
sion had planted no herring fry in the  
river. How is that?" said the reporter.

"I might answer that," said Mr.  
Worth, "like the Yankee, by asking  
another question, 'Why is it that the  
streams of the Pacific coast are now  
abundantly stocked with shad, when  
before the planting of the streams with  
shad fry by the commission, some eight  
or ten years ago, there was never a shad  
to be found in any of those rivers?'"

"But it is said that figures never  
lie, and I will give you some statistics  
that were sent on in connection with the  
United States exhibit of the fish com-  
mission at the Cincinnati exposition.  
We know that there has been a steady  
increase of the catch of shad in the  
streams of the Atlantic coast from Con-  
necticut to North Carolina inclusive,  
almost in arithmetical progression  
during the past four or five years. The  
commission has annually for that period  
detailed trustworthy men to visit the  
fisheries in the rivers within the bounds  
mentioned and the data received were  
on a most reliable basis."

"In 1880 the catch of shad was  
4,140,000. From that year up to 1885  
no attempt at a census was made. In  
the latter year the catch was 5,173,000;  
in 1886, 5,584,000; in 1887, 6,715,000,  
and in 1888, 7,660,000."  
"Now, you will see that from 1880  
to 1888, inclusive, the catch of shad  
nearly doubled, and what is of special  
interest in this connection is the fact  
that the rate of increase was in exact  
proportion to the increase of planting  
the fry by the commission. For exam-  
ple beginning with 1880 fry were  
planted at the rate of eleven, twelve  
and twenty-four millions, and so on in  
progression per annum of eighty-one,  
eighty-three, and one hundred and  
twenty-two millions."

"Another thing, although no men  
have been especially detailed to take a  
census, we know from reliable reports,  
that the increase in the catch of shad  
has been similarly proportionate along  
the coasts of South Carolina, Georgia  
and Florida."

"I think it would not be extravagant  
to predict that before many years have  
gone by every river leading into the  
Atlantic and Pacific oceans and the  
Gulf of Mexico will be fully stocked by  
the efforts of the national fish commis-

sion with this delicious fish. Experi-  
ence has shown that such a consummation  
is perfectly feasible."

**IS CONSUMPTION INCURABLE?**  
Read the following: Mr. C. H. Morris,  
Newark, Ark., says: "Was down with  
Abscess of Lungs, and friends and physi-  
cians pronounced me an Incurable  
Consumptive. Began taking Dr. King's  
New Discovery for Consumption, am  
now on my third bottle, and able to  
oversee the work on my farm. It is the  
finest medicine ever made."  
Jesse Middlewart, Decatur, O., says:  
"Had it not been for Dr. King's New  
Discovery for Consumption I would  
have died of Lung Troubles. Was given  
up by doctors. Am now in best of  
health." Try it. Sample bottles free  
at Dr. W. J. Leary's Drugstore.

**NORTH CAROLINA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**

The Falcon states that the Medical  
Society was in almost continuous session  
from Tuesday until Thursday evening.  
The storm must have given the members  
a gloomy impression of our Burg. The  
trip to the fisheries was interfered with  
by the storm, though the steamer had  
been procured for two days service.  
The banquet, which had been set for  
Thursday night by the local committee  
of physicians and citizens in the original  
programme for the entertainment of the  
Society, and which became a neces-  
sity on account of the storm was most  
respectfully declined. The Society may  
be adjourned earlier than was expect-  
ed. The Medical Society of North Car-  
olina is composed of an able body of  
physicians who rank high in the profes-  
sion all over the United States. The  
members were splendid gentlemen, who  
made a pleasant impression upon the  
people here. The session was a mem-  
orable one, and great harmony prevailed  
among those who have been taught to  
believe, love to disagree.

"Great souls by instinct to each other  
turn,  
Demand alliance and in friendship  
burn."

The following are the officers of the  
Society:  
President, George T. Thomas; Vice-  
Presidents, R. L. Payne, R. Dillard and  
S. D. Booth; Secretary, J. M. Hays;  
Treasurer, C. M. Pool; Orator, W. J.  
Jones.

Delegates to Medical Society, L. G.  
Broughton, W. W. Griggs, G. A. Foote  
and Henry A. Dodson.  
Delegates to American Association,  
C. J. O. Hogan, H. H. Hanie, T. D.  
Haigh, W. E. Wood, R. H. Sumner, G.  
T. Tucker, W. T. Emmett, Geo. W. Long,  
W. J. Lumsden, H. B. Marriott, A. G.  
Carr, J. E. Wood, T. F. Wood, W. J.  
Jones and Geo. A. Foote.

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A purer medicine does not exist, and it  
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Electric Bitters will cure all diseases of  
the Liver and Kidneys, will remove  
Pimples, Boils, Salt Rheum and other  
affections caused by impure blood.  
Will drive Malaria from the system and  
prevent as well as cure all Malarial  
fevers. For cure of Headache, Consti-  
pation and Indigestion try Electric Bit-  
ters. Entire satisfaction guaranteed,  
or money refunded. Price 50 cts., and  
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Drugstore.

The following post masters in this  
District have been appointed: Fannie  
O. Nelson, at Plymouth; Joseph S. Long,  
at Hertford; Malachi M. Burnham, at  
South Mills, and Mrs. H. L. Abbott, at  
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kens & Sons.

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